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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

1. (Amended) A lighting device with an optical waveguide plate ~~(1)~~ which comprises that has a light emission surface ~~(11)~~ and a plurality of channels ~~(20)~~ each for accommodating at least one substantially linear light source ~~(21)~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said channels ~~(20)~~ are covered with a first reflecting layer ~~(204)~~ at their upper sides ~~(203)~~ facing the light emission surface ~~(11)~~, and the coupling of the light into the optical waveguide plate ~~(1)~~ takes place through side walls ~~(201, 202)~~ of the channels.

2. (Amended) ~~A lighting device as claimed in The~~ lighting device of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the side walls ~~(201, 202)~~ of the channels ~~(20)~~ extend substantially perpendicularly to the light emission surface ~~(11)~~, and the upper sides ~~(203)~~ of the channels ~~(20)~~ extend substantially parallel to the light emission surface ~~(11)~~.

3. (Amended) ~~A lighting device as claimed in The~~ lighting device of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the channels ~~(20)~~ are covered with a second reflecting layer ~~(121, 121a)~~ at their lower sides opposite to the upper sides ~~(203)~~.

4. (Amended) ~~A lighting device as claimed in The~~ lighting device of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the channels ~~(20)~~ have a substantially rectangular cross-section.

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5. (Amended) ~~A lighting device as claimed in The~~
lighting device of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the
channels-(20) are embedded in a lower side-(12) of the optical
waveguide plate-(1) opposed to the light emission surface-(11).

6. (Amended) ~~A lighting device as claimed in The~~
lighting device of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the
optical waveguide plate-(1) comprises a plurality of optical
waveguide elements-(2) in which the channels-(20) are provided
and which are optically fixedly connected to the lower side
-(12) of the optical waveguide plate-(1) opposite to the light
emission surface-(11).

7. (Amended) ~~A lighting device as claimed in The~~
lighting device of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the
at least one light source-(21) is a low-pressure gas discharge
lamp.

8. (Amended) A lighting device with an optical
waveguide plate that has a light emission surface and a
plurality of channels each for accommodating at least one
substantially linear light source, A lighting device as claimed
in claim 3, characterized in that wherein:

the channels are covered with a first reflecting
layer at their upper sides facing the light emission surface,
and the coupling of the light into the optical waveguide plate
takes place through side walls of the channels;

the channels are covered with a second reflecting
layer at their lower sides opposite to the upper sides; and

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the second reflecting layer ~~(121)~~ extends over the lateral surfaces ~~(13 to 16)~~ and the lower side ~~(12)~~ of the optical waveguide plate ~~(1)~~.

9. (Amended) ~~A lighting device as claimed in The lighting device of claim 8, characterized in that wherein the second reflecting layer (121) has a spacing forming an air gap from the optical waveguide plate (1).~~

10. (Amended) ~~A lighting device as claimed in The lighting device of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the first reflecting layer (204) has a continuation in the form of a first portion (204a) extending in horizontal direction into the optical waveguide plate (1).~~

11. (Amended) ~~A lighting device as claimed in The lighting device of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the first reflecting layer (204) has a continuation in the form of a second portion (204b) extending along the side walls (201) of the channels (20).~~

12. (Amended) A lighting device with an optical waveguide plate that has a light emission surface and a plurality of channels each for accommodating at least one substantially linear light source, A lighting device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein:

the channels are covered with a first reflecting layer at their upper sides facing the light emission surface;

the coupling of the light into the optical waveguide plate takes place through side walls of the channels; and

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the edges of the channels ~~(20)~~ situated opposite the upper side ~~(203)~~ are surrounded by a third reflecting layer ~~(205)~~.

13. (Twice Amended) A liquid crystal display with ~~a lighting device as claimed in~~ including the lighting device of claim 1.

In the Abstract:

A lighting device is described with an optical waveguide plate ~~(1)~~ which comprises that has a light emission surface ~~(11)~~ and a plurality of channels ~~(20)~~ each with at least one substantially linear light source ~~(21)~~, which. The device is suitable in particular for use as a backlight in a liquid crystal display, such as an LCD picture screen, or for use as a planar light source. The ~~lighting device is distinguished in particular in that the channels are provided with a reflecting first layer (204) at their upper sides (203) facing the light emission surface (11), and in that the~~ The coupling of light into the optical waveguide plate takes place through side walls ~~(201, 202)~~ of the channels.

~~Fig 1~~

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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Applicant(s) thank(s) the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

The claims are amended for nonstatutory reasons to remove drawing figure labels and otherwise format them in accordance with standard U.S. patent practice. The scope of claims 1-13 is not changed. New claims 14-20, each of which depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, 8, or 12, are added to partially restore the original range of claims that existed before multiple dependencies were removed in the preliminary amendment. No new matter is added.

The Office action objects to the Abstract of the disclosure. The Abstract is replaced consistent with the requirement of the Office action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

The Office action rejects claims 1-5, 10, 11, and 13 under 35 USC § 103(a) over U.S. Pat. No. 4,714,973 to Torihara et al. in view of published application US 2002/0001184 by Kim et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. As explained below, claims 1-5, 10, 11, and 13 are patentable over the cited references under 35 USC § 103(a).

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The Office action admits that Torihara et al. do not disclose the reflecting layer at the upper side of the channel, as recited in claim 1, but claims that this discrepancy can be cured by the teaching of Kim et al. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the teaching of Kim et al. is not prior art under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103 because applicant's priority date of 20 January 2001 claimed under 35 USC § 119 predates the date of U.S. filing (22 June 2001) of US 2002/0001184 by Kim et al. Therefore the reference of Kim et al. cannot be combined with the reference of Torihara et al. under 35 USC § 103(a). Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 USC § 103(a) rejection of claim 1, and of claims 2-5, 10, 11, and 13 that depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, is respectfully requested.

The Office action rejects claims 7 under 35 USC § 103(a) over Torihara et al. and Kim et al. as above, and further in view of published application US 2001/0043294 by Baechtelet et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Baechtelet et al. do not teach or suggest the reflective element of claim 1 missing from the reference of Torihara et al., and therefore claim 7 is patentable at least because it depends from claim 1 which is patentable over the cited references as explained above.

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The Office action objects to claims 6, 8, 9, and 12 as depending from a rejected claim, but the Examiner states that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form etc. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this indication of patentable subject matter. Claims 8 and 12 having been placed in independent form, claim 9 depending from claim 8, and claim 6 depending from claim 1 which is patentable as explained above, withdrawal of the objection to claims 6, 8, 9, and 12 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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